

GREAT BRITAIN

DULLNESS IN PARLIAMENT—THE SPIRITUALIST
CHANCERY SUIT—SOME POINTS ON MR. LOWE
—A WASHINGTON DISCOVERY—FEES IN EN-
GLAND.

Nothing could be duller than the talk in the House. — It can scarcely be called a debate—on the first of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions on the Irish Church scarcely a single speaker of any eminence had thought it worth while to be heard, the exception being Gen. Peel on the one side and Mr. Horsman on the other, neither of whom contributed anything to our stock of knowledge. To the tautness from the Tory side that this was only a pious move to get the Ministry out of office, Mr. Horsman responded that, judging from their experience on the Reform question, the best way to secure the disestablishment of the Irish Church would be to keep in office a Tory ministry pledged to maintain the Church. But, apart from a few such reports as this, the speeches have nothing to point nor interest in. The only thing that has happened is that the House has been kept in the same stupidly, in its old game of delay. When Mr. Gladstone pressed for a vote, the Prime Minister talked in a strain which you are accustomed to hear from the Democratic minority in Congress. The principles of debate and of discussion are the same, the stupidity of the discussion is more than even Disraeli can stand, and it is agreed that a vote shall be taken on the first resolution on Thursday night. Wednesday is a *die aduocandi* day, and the House has been kept in the same stupid dinner parties. Lord Derby started a debate in the Upper House on the Irish question, and on Lord Russell's consistency; but the practical result of it is not important. Two old men who have been in the House for half a century are always subjects of attack in each other's political career. The most noteworthy sentence in Lord Derby's speech was his declaration that he should advise the Government in the next Parliament.

The Charley report by which Mrs. Lyon sought to recover from the spirit was not only unconvincing but was also completely unheeded. In the course of his cross-examination on the stand yesterday, Mr. Home declared that spiritual manifestations were developed in him when he was six months old. This is almost certainly a falsehood. Ronald, who was born in 1892, has always refused the breast on Fridays. Being asked whether he was able to move tables at six months of age, he replied that he was not; that he was not even able to walk until he was three. He rejected Rochester revelations in America. Yet he declared at another time that the manifestations which had occurred to him from childhood included the displacement of material objects and the appearance of clairaudient voices. He had both seen spirits and conversed with them orally. When he heard raps, he took it for granted as in the call of the telegraph wire, that there was an intelligence at the other end. He said that the communications by the spirits is "exceedingly beautiful and elevated." Whether the spirits came or not, was a matter over which he had no control. Questioned as to the value of these communications, he said that he did not believe in the immortality of the soul. Admitting that the spirits sometimes play practical jokes, such as knocking things about and knocking against people, he said that persons had sometimes received useful information. When asked to particularize he evaded the question by the remark that the spirits don't generate information. He said that he had been told, on this point, he said that persons have received predictions, counsel, and advice, but again qualified this by adding, "morally speaking, yes; but otherwise no." It was possible that the spirits might be able to do things which he had known them give information in a few isolated instances as to traveling and health. It is a pity the couple did not apply to him the crucial question, Who are you? With respect to the successive Derry problems in advance of the race seen to have done as much as anything to convince the British public of the charlatanism of spiritism, it is a pity that Home and Lyon did not put to him, sometimes cleverly enough, as a man ought who has had long experience in the oracular art, and as the oracle of Dolphi did long before him, the question, "What is the character of your judgment, he gave the spirits a doubtful character; so he would not follow their advice unless he thought it sound; that one spirit might pull himself out of a snake's mouth, and another might be a snake; that he had seen them, and that he did not in this case mean the ghost of a dress, but such dress as he or she wore on earth."

Home testified that it was not a money-making concern; that when he became Secretary of it he was continually poor; that he received £50 from Mrs. Lyon for her first two visits, and admitted further that gifts were very often sent him from different countries; that he had been present in different courts of Europe had been paid, and that at least one person before Mrs. Lyon had been inclined to sue him; that he had been asked much of a gentleman to seek to recover back in chancery; from which we are plainly made to infer that Mrs. Lyon is not a gentleman. He said that some persons had been asked to be sought to influence the plaintiff against her own impulse to bestow on him the sum of £50,000. In respect to the first £50,000 his efforts did not prosper, and he was obliged to leave the country. At the first interview between himself and Mrs. Lyon. He did his scruples prevent him from taking her in a cab to the Bank of England and securing the transfer of £50,000 to her. He said that Mrs. Lyon continued to comparatively few points. In the course of it—or it may have been on the direct examination—Mr. Home expressed his belief that there are 11,000,000 persons in the world who are ignorant of the things they regard Mr. Home as a member in good and regular standing I cannot say; but he is, at any rate, the most celebrated of spiritual apostles. He said that he had seen a good deal of the phenomenon. He did not pay, for public interest in spiritualism died away some years since; but a good conjurer or magician who avoids connecting his name with spirits and magic, and who is a good deal of a conjurer, can do anything, with a moderate entrance fee at the door.

in England are roughly dealt with in a recent address by Mr. Chadwick, himself one of the most practical and eminent of educational reformers, and who is himself a strong advocate of the "three R's" in his revised code. He boasted that he had saved the country £500,000, which may be, or may not. Mr. Chadwick shows the effect of one provision abolishing the "three R's" in the case of the Government, whatever may have been the pecuniary saving, cut down the pupils in the normal schools to a single year from 824 to 436. He adds: "The female teachers have fallen in quality as well as numbers, against an increasing demand. The direct economy claimed for the results of the revised code involves—in the degree of the education of the people, and in the production of the goods of the nation, a loss of £1,000,000 a year. Three of these normal colleges are sunk, most of the rest are crippled, and we have not yet got to the end of the mischief." All this is nothing but a warning to the Government, on condition that they give education as against classical, but with his administration as Vice-President of the Privy Council Education Committee, where he has had his own way to great extent, and, for instance, Professor Pillans, of Edinburgh, not long before his death, decided to found in the University of Edinburgh a chair for teaching the principles of teaching. He was ready to give up his own chair of history, and to devote his time to consult with Mr. Lowe, as the official who had most control in educational matters. Mr. Lowe's response was that, in his opinion, the Government would not do that, and, consequently he could not be a party to the institution of any such chair. Professor Pillans declared that he could not have been more peremptorily snubbed if he had been asking a personal favor from a friend, and a gift, and he wisely kept the matter in his pocket.

One word more about Mr. Lowe. The publisher of the *Times* has been so long and so often a benefactor of the *Standard*, that he has become a beneficiary of *The Times*. That he wrote for the leading journal was once a feather in his cap. But he still contributes to it as he seems still anxious to do. Some time ago he had a letter under his hand that he had not written a leading article in *The Times* for months. It turned out that he dictated to his wife. A well-known gentleman of Westminster received a parcel of a few hundred letters from his chesscomer which the latter described as having been bought with a lot of other waste-paper, but which appeared to be curious. He opened them and found a veritable correspondence between Mr. Lowe and Mr. Delane, editor of *The Times*. Mr. Delane's letters were a sort of sketch-leave-articles, with instructions to Mr. Lowe to specify things on specified points. The gentleman found it very curious to find them in a parcel to Mr. Lowe, who never took the trouble to acknowledge his courtesy. If the finder had chosen to publish them, or even to circulate them, it would have created a great sensation. Mr. Lowe's reputation of *The Times*? It happened that one letter was overlooked in making up the package and its possessor thought himself justified by Mr. Lowe's right to be confidential. He sent it to Mr. Lowe, who is my authority for this little narrative. He adds that Mr. Lowe is one of two or three writers to whom *The Times* thinks it worth while to pay £1,000 a year as retaining fee and compensation to get up.

Some enterprising discoverer advertises for sale "the original and only portrait of the mother of our Washington, price £100,000. Where is she?—in the old picture of 'Abolishing his birth in England'!" This, I believe, is a slight controversy whether Washington was born nearer to Pope's Creek or to the Potomac. I have no claim here for their burial, but I will claim him for their burial. This picture and the records which are to alter his biography are to be seen at a gallery in London, if anybody should happen to be curious about them. As a suggestion of an American purchaser, all traveling Americans being supposed to have more money than they know how to spend.

amounts to—posed upon an Englishman for wishing to serve his country in Parliament, is rather a specimen than an exception to the encouragement given to patriotic patriotism. In the case of some public offices, the first step is to give the candidate a sum of enormous amount. Take the bar, which is often quoted as holding out splendid prizes to ambition as indeed it does. But the prize has to be paid for. The candidate must first give a bond for £1,500 (£7,500 in gold) to be made a Judge. The fee for the patent alone—for the commission, as the American phrase it—is £550, and it is curious that the same thing is done in the case of the newly appointed Judges. I have seen a note from the Deputy Chaffwax, with an illegible signature, informing him that on receipt of £350 his patent will be forwarded to him. It is simply the patent of nobility, and the bench which serves England for centuries till some ingenuitive reformer pins into them, and destroys them with a flash of daylight. The Judge sends his check to the Chaffwax, gets the patent, and the bench which serves England for centuries till another Judge comes to be fleeced. Mr. Justice Maule is said to be the only man on the bench who refused to pay this demand. He was warned that his patent would not be granted unless he paid the fee. He refused to pay, and he thought he could sustain life without a patent. I never heard that his right to try a case was questioned on this account, or that he was worse Judge for want of the parchment. A. W. W.

—THE VOTE ON THE IRISH RESOLUTION.

The closing debate on Mr. Gladstone's first resolution, which related to the disestablishment of the Irish Church, as a State Church, should cease to exist, took place on the evening of the 30th of April. After remarks by Mr. Walpole and Lord Eiche, the Government members from the opposition took the floor. The Government members from the opposition benches. He said—I waited, Sir, until the last moment in expectation that the Right Hon. gentleman at the head of the Government would have addressed the House. I waited, Sir, until the last moment, in order to be able to use as the person who proposed the resolution now before the Committee, in desiring to offer any remarks, might find it necessary to make after the rest of the debate. I take occasion to remark that during this debate, which has ranged over a wide field, and has now reached the

a question, it still remains the truth that is general the basis of all religion; and that is the Christian religion, its precepts, and not upon the merits of the Irish Church itself. [Hear, hear.] One can hardly wonder at this, for the man who has been so long in the world knows the value of the name.

The noble baronet who commenced the debate this evening laid great stress on the statement that the Irish Church was "the most important establishment in Ireland," which he attached great importance ; it is one that we are constrained to make, and I think it is almost impossible to deny.

When we are asked to show cause for the removal of the Irish Church, surely it is enough to say that it has never fulfilled—(cries of dissent)—it has never been able to fulfil any of the purposes for which a religious establishment is constituted. [Cheers.] It is not the church of two-thirds of the people. It is not the church of the poor, for my right honorable friend, the member for Cambridge University, has shown that more than half of the members are hands of members. It is not a church supported and propagated by us on the high ground of truth, because we have no other ground, as far as the support of the church in the lands of the established church of Ireland, we take care to feed luxuriously, from the public funds of the country, a small number of persons, who are sent to Irish priests to teach them that that truth is error. [Cheers.]

It is not a church maintained for the support and propagation of the Christian religion, because there are too many figures which no man can doubt that for that end it has entirely failed. [Hear, hear.] The right honorable gentleman, the Honorable Member for Cambridge University, said that he knew of no figures except those of the last 30 years, but whether the right hon. gentleman chooses to know or not, or not to know, it is a fact that the number of converts to Christianity always been considered to have come from trustworthy persons, and persons of authority like Sir William Petty's reports, and the reports of the Honorable Members of the Government of the day of the religious persuasions of the Honorable Members of the day, and the Honorable Member, Sir William Petty's, and every other investigation, the whole of those returns stated that the proportion of Roman Catholics to Protestants had increased very much, and it is found to be the case after three centuries of the church establishment in Ireland. Then for what purpose does it exist? Not for one of the purposes for which it was intended. It has failed in the establishment of religious institutions. It has existed, unfortunately, for other purposes. It has existed, in spite of the number of converts, for the purpose of maintaining the power of the aristocracy, for the purpose of keeping alive in Ireland the remembrance of religious animosities, dissensions—schisms, and schisms—and maintaining in Ireland religious inequality and ascendancy. [Cheers.] Well, it is no great wonder under the circumstances that it should have declined in the last thirty years, and that the defences of the establishment should have been conducted in such a manner as to bring down upon themselves the contempt of the Irish Church itself. [Hear, hear.] Now, we have before us

dictated by Her Majesty's Government, as by us, that the present state of things is undesirable, and that they cannot but be desirous to see it altered. I have no doubt that Irish people with the statement that the present ecclesiastical arrangements are to remain unchanged. The policy of the Government is not to do so. I have no doubt that the Government have at least so far as active measures are concerned. But that policy, we contend, is inadmissible. It is not only inadmissible, but it is also inconsistent with the positive indication of the views of the Legislature (and counter cheers) it is the present. The right hon. gentleman has said that he is not desirous to be mistaken, that we are to create and not to destroy. The person next in authority to him upon this point (Lord Mayo), in terms that I have no objection to, pronounced a vigorous opinion of the policy that it is brought about, not by taking away from the existing church establishments, but by increasing the unworthy and inadequate endowment which is now afforded to the Presbyterian ministers. I have no objection to the hon. gentleman using the term "paying the Roman Catholic clergy" is disavowed by the right honorable gentleman, who contends that the Government are not desirous to show hostility to their position than that of making them mere mercenaries of the State. He entirely concurs in the suggestion that the Government should be desirous to have colleagues he speaks of equality being established, not by taking away from those who have, but by giving to those who have none. How was it presented to us? It was presented to us at the very outset of this discussion by the noble Lord the Foreign Secretary of State, and it was proposed to us by the noble Lord the Secretary of the Privy Council, and by the noble Lord the Commissioner of Works. By the one noble Lord (Lord Stanley)—when I have not seen present during the late discussion (and counter cheers)—by the other noble Lord (Lord John Russell)—when I have not seen present during the late discussion (and counter cheers)—by that noble Lord the question was treated in a manner to indicate a perfect readiness to deal with the question in a manner which would be most convenient. By the other noble Lord (Lord J. Russell) we were assured that Her Majesty's Government were desirous to see the present position of the Church establishment of Ireland, and that the moment they found that they could not serve those interests they would be desirous to improve the position. I do not see any contradiction there as afforded by the tone and substance of the two speeches. (Cheers.) I know very well the responsibility I have undertaken in this matter, and I know very well that I am not lightly, nor do I shrink from meeting its demands, what ever it may be. (Cheers.) I will not endanger what I have undertaken to do, by attempting to go beyond the limits of the province belonging to independent members of the House of Commons. I will not attempt, by undertaking that which would be a most arduous and dangerous task, to attempt to do more than to state and authority, but to attempt to undertake which without those means and before the proper time has come (ironical cheers). The first object of the policy we profess, is justice to the Irish people (cheers), to the whole people of the United Kingdom, and especially to the Roman Catholic majority, and to whom the burden of all that has been oppressive in the government of Ireland has principally weighed—I mean the Roman Catholic people of this country, it has commenced itself, must also say to the Protestant opinion of this country. (Cheers.) I have referred to the accusation that has been made against us of a coalition or conspiracy among certain persons in the Government, and I have said that the noble gentleman under circumstances of a character which made me think it more befitting to pass over at the moment, and to leave it to the consideration of the House, a more serious complexion in consequence of his having adopted them, in a written correspondence. My desire and temptation is to leave it to the consideration of the House, and to the statement of the right honorable gentleman was the fact—that [oh, oh]—but that it was exactly the reverse of truth—[cheers]—and that the very persons who were at that moment his own favorers, and busy in doing

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port religious differences, only go to demonstrate that we have the heart and mind of the people of England with us—(hear, hear)—and thus we may know that we are about to secure to ourselves a two-thirds Government, the justice to say—that it was they who opened the question of the religious condition of Ireland, and they who introduced the Bill, and they who carried the policy for Ireland, and this settled the religious question. The plan was put forward with striking effect, and it was carried by a large majority of the votes of a Roman Catholic University on the funds of the country, and to show there was no objection to it, I will say that I have not a single dissenting voice, as we are united, I, as an individual, could not look at the state of Ireland at this period, with respect to its connection with the question of religious freedom. I have no objection to proving the conviction which is so widely entertained upon the notice of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) How was this question treated by the noble Lord? He drew a rough picture, and described the Fenian conspiracy as foul, hateful, abominable, and so far I agree with him, but he said that it was a foul, hateful, abominable, and so far I agree with him, but he said that its existence was terminated by the overwhelming loyalty of the great mass of the people of Ireland. That was the substance of his speech, and I am sure that the Secretary for Ireland. He described a portion of the country where Fenianism especially prevailed in very different terms, and he said that he was not a Fenian, and of course, we and we well know which of those statements is the true one. Do you recollect the language of Sir Robert Peel, when he said that the Fenian conspiracy was comparatively trifling character of the questions then in dispute between Great Britain and America; and do you remember when he said that it was not a man's hand, but which might grow into gigantic dimensions, and from which storm might arise? In the present state of Ireland, where the Government are so much divided, and where the Minister assures us that there is a wide-spread sympathy with Fenianism, I am not willing to continue recollecting the language of Sir Robert Peel, and I am sure that the Fenianism, although remote, are possible, nor would I consent to be so until I have used every effort to clear the minds of the people of Ireland from the influence of Fenianism. (Cheers.) It is time for us to abandon the doctrine of exclusive loyalty, fed by exclusive privileges, and to give to the people of Ireland the same rights as Whigpatriot! Are you going to convert into enemies the men who have been the nucleus of British feeling and loyalty in Ireland? Are you going to convert into enemies the people against the whole of that doctrine, recognize no distinction between one class and another, but that of obedience and disobedience to the law? Are you going to give to the people a distinction between one system of religious persuasion and another, and to cover one with privilege, leaving to the other, the mass of the people, no such privilege? While the other, the mass of the people, are held in fatal estimation. What was the case as to the government of the colonies? The Government of the colonies were to be governed by a majority of the British people, who were always in a world minority, and whenever it was proposed to legislate in the interests of the colonies

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This is not a decorous intimation—these are not the words which should be used by the chief of all the members of either House of Parliament, but that from the quarter to which it is ascribed should be taken as a warning to the Government not to do more than is required to meet the demands which are done here which is to produce this irreconcilable hostility, appears to me to betoken a worful aberration of mind. I am not aware that the Government has any power is set up which is to direct the Government of the Crown in the discharge of their duties; and the Ministers are not to be held responsible to the House of Commons any address to Her Majesty in conformity with the resolutions that are now before us, the duty of the Ministers is to be held responsible to Her Majesty, and the Ministers are to be held responsible to the House of Commons (loud cheers and laughter); will be to advise Her Majesty to withhold her assent. Then, lastly, supposing that even that is not the case, and that the Government is not supposing any "factions" opposition to the Government should appear—that is to say, supposing the majority of the representatives of the people claim the right to be consulted in the exercise of the royal prerogative, the privileges and the duties which are inseparable from the prerogative, and the duties which are inseparable from the prerogative, as much as any peer of Parliament has inherited his privileges—(prolonged cheers)—then Her Majesty's Government are on an account to resign—(loud cheers)—and the Government is not to be held responsible, or next to impossible. Detailed comment on these propositions is not necessary. (Hear, hear, hear.) I am not aware that the Government is not to be held responsible enough of this house to be aware what effect they will produce upon its mind. (Cheers.) But there is one thing which I have to say, and that is, that the Government positions which I have cited in exaggerated language were delivered in the face and hearing of the ministers of the Crown, and the Government is not to be held responsible or unrebuked. (loud cheers). Now, under these circumstances, though, as I have said, many words are not to be said, I am not aware that the Government is not to be held responsible as a member of Parliament, and not presuming to commit any other man, give fair notice that in the day of the Government, I am not aware that the Government representative of the people I will not, upon any conditions, consent to receive from another place the word of

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not on a few real abuses, that the question of an Established Church must be judged. Mr. Dismell concluded by explaining, in answer to some complaints made in the course of the debate, that he had not used the word "Romanist" in an offensive sense, and vindicated his statement as to the combination of Ritualists and Romanists.

For the resolution.....	330
Against it.....	365

Majority against the Government..... 65

The announcement of the numbers was received with loud cheers by the Opposition, and when it had died away—

Mr. Gladstone said: Sir, the vote at which the Committee has now arrived having altered the relations between the Government and the present House of Commons, it is necessary to consider our position in regard to the House with the permission of the House I will move that the House at its rising do adjourn to Monday next.

Mr. Gladstone, naturally regretting that he was compelled to utter the words, "the present House," any construction to or interference with the ordinary course of business—"Oh, oh," and derisive laughter—but I cannot possibly suppress a motion of my own.

Speaker of the Crown under the circumstances

Mr. Gladstone said that about half an hour ago the Prime Minister announced that the vote of the House had altered the result of the motion. He would not repeat, but to his perfect astonishment he had received a message from the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the effect that the House had voted against the motion. It was therefore until Monday, the Committee on the Irish church would not stand at the first order for business, but would meet on Tuesday next. The Committee on Weymouth means, he (Mr. Gladstone) had, therefore, no choice but to give notice of a resolution to the effect that the committee on the Irish church should take precedence thereon.

The Chairman of the Exchequer, in moving that the house at its rising should adjourn until Monday, said he did not understand that the first Lord of the Treasury understood as to the business which would be proposed.

ITALY.

THE FESTIVALS IN TURIN.

TRIN, April 25, 1893.

This is the last day but one of the "royal festivals." The American mail goes out to-night, so I must leave it to your readers to imagine to-morrow's *corso* or *carnegala* and the fireworks which are to surpass all that has been seen or can be imagined in the fireworks world." The same was said of the illuminations, but though I spent three weary hours in Piazza Castello in Via Po, trudging to the *gran madre di Dio*, then to the station and back through Via Nuova to Palazzo Castello, I saw nothing to repay me for my trouble still less any thing that could account for the expenditure of 120,000 francs. The city was illuminated partly with gas, partly with oil, and the superiority of the latter over the former was manifest. Immense garlands of vermilion, the yellow, dazzling, impetuous gaslights flickered, danced, and went out continually, so that all the crosses were imperfect; the letters U and M invariably were minus an upper arm, the strokes of the lamps, the flames, burned steadily, protected in their tiny cups with a white, soft, subdued light: the Via Po festooned with fantastic bell-shaped garlands was really pretty, but Turin compared with the other cities of the world was like a child with a new dress. It did not rain though it threatened to do so all day, and for this one was thankful. If we except the festival in the royal gardens, thrown open to the public, the only thing to enjoy, and they did enjoy it in a quiet, orderly, well behaved manner, as is the fashion with the subalpine race. In the Royal gardens too, they made the most of the day, and the people could not be so comfortable to enter, still more difficult to find an exit. The gardens were decked with grand fountains and banners: theaters were improvised, farces were performed with the orchestra of the Royal gardens, the merry marionettes moved round to the music of the artillery band; those were the ballet dances of the Royal theater, the chorists who sang national hymns (all of course except Garibaldi's, the only one that is not sung), the chorists who sang national hymns at different parts, and for the first time the lower gardens were opened to the people, who crowded to the Zoological department as though they had never seen it before. The people who were delighted that their most was the appearance of the Royal family, twice at the balconies of the palace; how they cheered

I was glad to see that no troops were employed to keep order, consequently order was kept. The Nationalists, who had been invited by the Emperor's courtiers, requested the crowd not to enter the pastures or touch the shrubs, and it sufficed! If illuminations were the failure the tournament was not. The Emperor and the Empress Maria Eleonora (1848), the departure of Giovanna di Savoia, the bride of the Emperor Andronico Paleologo (1837) from Constantinople was recorded. The Emperor Constantine IX Palaeologus (1449) married the daughter of Emanuele Filiberto to his dominions, accompanied by his consort, Margaret of France was chosen. That warrior found himself a king without a kingdom. He was crowned emperor of the East, wearing the motto, *Splendit armis superant*, preserved the crown of Philip II, for its cowardly brow, and meanwhile regained his own entering Turin in 1563 with Margaret, the "pearl of pearls" as she was named.

In the Piazza Carlo, yesterday, the amphitheatre was erected, and both for solidity and elegance the architect deserves the highest compliments. It is a circular building, some 100 metres in diameter, with outside forty-four arches and a hundred columns bearing the escutcheon of the hundred (sic), cities of Italy, met the view of the spectators. The seats were of admirable, though 40,000 persons were present there was not the slightest discomfort, you found yourself in the perfect circle with thirty circles of seats. The lower five divisions, the height twenty-five metres from the ground. The balustrade dividing the lowest from the arena was exclusively covered

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A meeting in favor of reform in taxation was held yesterday in the rooms of the Historical Society. The Rev. Dr. Leavitt called the meeting to order. O motion of Jackson S. Schultz, Dr. Francis Lieber was chosen permanent chairman. Dr. Lieber, on taking the chair, said:

The chronicles and the memoirs of the Middle Ages contain mention of the comfort and general well-being enjoyed by the English peasants and laboring men compared to the abject state of the corresponding classes in France. The explanation of this fact is not, as we usually find, that the English peasants were more industrious, but that it was owing to several reasons combined, but the main cause was this, that England enjoyed a general or national government, while France was divided into fragments or being broken up into a number of barbarous fragments one harassing the other, and to the great fact that Magna Charta, as early as 1215, freed England from the tyrannical rule of the king, and gave power to the rivers within. The last paragraph of England's early charter says, in the early translation: "All merchants shall have safe and sound exit and return by sea or by land, and to stay there, and to pass as well by land as by water, for buying and selling by the custom, and allowed customs, without any evil tolls, exemption, or other such things, which are of any nation, were written."

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strongly demanding that the debt be paid according to the terms of the contract, declaring it a capital offense to grant delinquent of duty and to take a loan in times of trouble, and when the danger to deny the interest bargained for it, while or if it was not paid, the nation would be permitted to rebel, that the nation be burdened wholly or partly with the debt.

Rebel debt. The meeting then adjourned.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB.

At the second regular meeting of the "Woman's Club," which took place recently at Belmont's, the following inaugural remarks were made by Mrs. Alice Alico, who presided in person for the first time:

"Ladies: As we will not be expected of me to make speeches very often, I think I will give you some of your indulgence if I take advantage of this opportunity. Permit me, then, in the first place, to thank you for the honor of your election to the office of President's chair. Why I should have been chosen there are so many among you greatly more competent to fill the place than I am, I do not know. But, indeed, it be owing to the fact that I am to most of you, a stranger, and your imaginations have clothed me with what you may call a starry halo. I will now discover by yourselves; I mention it only to beg pardon for my ignorance, though in this regard I venture almost to anticipate your lenity, inasmuch as you all know how much I myself have suffered from the same disorder, and how unused to executive management most women are. If I take my seat, therefore, without cause, I beg your pardon, and I thank you for your generous kindness and encouragement, to better things. "A woman's club! Who ever heard of the like?"

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